UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES

The Special Meeting of the Faculty Senate
Held on May 14, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in Mahar 108

A. NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation by Chancellor Javier Reyes and members of Administration regarding on-campus protests and administrative and policing responses occurring on May 7th through 8th, 2024.

1. **Presentation by Chancellor Reyes and members of Administration**

Please note that due to some issues with the technology of the room, the Presiding Officer was not able to hear comments from the audience.

Chancellor Reyes: First, thank you to all of you for being here today and for meeting with me today. I would like to acknowledge that these past few weeks have been deeply challenging on all of us on campus and many members of our community. Many members of our community and all of us on campus are hurting. There's no question that the videos that have been circulated are distressing, and I say this as a father, as an educator, and as a chancellor. I'm deeply committed to the defense of free speech and assembly. I will always support the rights for our students, faculty and staff and community to advocate for a point of view.

Since the beginning of campus demonstrations this last fall. I've been consistent in upholding university policies and will continue to be consistent. But we have to look at some of our policies, and we are doing so. Our response to demonstrations that took place May 7 and May eighth was not about free speech. It was about ensuring the safety and well-being of the entire campus and the consistent application of university policies.

Before we discuss our response in more detail and take on questions, I would like to walk through the timeline of events beginning in the first encampment on April 29. On April 29, a group of demonstrators, primarily UMass Amherst students, set up an unauthorized encampment on the south lawn. This encampment went against our Land Use Policy which requires pre-approval for use of campus land to set up any sort of structure, including tables, exhibits, amplified sound systems, and event tents. The policy is intended to ensure that the shared spaces of our campus are utilized in an equitable and safe way. The encampment violated the policy based on the following criteria. The space was not reserved by the demonstrators, in fact it had been reserved by another group. The structures were not authorized, and our initial approach to demonstrators in both encampments was identical. And I want you to keep that in mind.

On April 29, the Demonstration Response Team (DRST) notified demonstrators 3 times that they could continue demonstrating if the tents were removed. The Demonstration Response Team is a new team composed of staff members who support first amendment rights while supporting continuity of university operations through policy education. Campus police, with possible support from other police forces in the region, state police, and Facility staff were on call, if necessary, to dismantle the structures. We were all pleased that none of them were needed. That day. After 3 notifications, the demonstrators dismantled the encampment peacefully. After the structures were taken down, the Demonstration Response Team worked with the demonstrators to expedite the approval of the land use request so they could continue their activities. The demonstrators continued to use the space for gatherings and teachings for the remainder of the entire week. This was a collaborative and amicable outcome, which was within our policies, and allowed us to defend their freedom of speech.

Now let's talk about the demonstrations about that occurred on May 7 and May 8. On May 7, at 12:30 PM, embers of the same Demonstration Response Team engaged with demonstrators who were carrying pallets towards the encampment and asked them to discontinue their unauthorized construction. Demonstrators disregarded these instructions, and continued constructing the fortifications. At the same moment the encampment was being built, a new set of demands was emailed to me, indicating demonstrators would remain on site unless demands were met. Later that afternoon members of my senior leadership team and I met with the representatives of the demonstrators, a faculty member, one grad student, and two undergraduate students. We discussed their demands, including financial divestment, for more than an hour and a half. I shared what was not within my power as Chancellor, I communicated that the Board of Trustees was willing to include a discussion of the divestment resolution presented by the Student Trustee, Brady, at their next meeting. I also communicated with them that the Foundation Board had received their request to review their proposal for divestment. We also agreed to look into the 21 civil suits following the arrest on October 25. I clarified that there were no criminal charges whatsoever, and that I was working on a final review for the conduct reviews regarding previous offenders, for which now we have a decision.

I sincerely hope that these developments represented significant progress, and I implored-begged- the demonstrators to take down their encampments so that we could continue their negotiations. The meeting ended after ninety minutes with the demonstrators, refusing to take down the encampment because the work of the administration fell short of their demands. I explained that the meeting at the meeting that their demands would be an overreach of my authority, especially infringing on academic freedom of our faculty when it's to limit the research they can do with certain companies and organizations. I also told them that I would be limiting the options of our students to make their own decisions about who they engage with when they're looking for employment or when they want to bring speakers to our campus.

While we were negotiating the Demonstration Response Team issued a notification to demonstrators that they could continue their demonstration if they would take their tents down. At 6 PM, after our meeting ended, and it was clear that we were at an impasse, the Demonstration Response Team gave the demonstrations demonstrators a final warning which I can read to you now. “We are here because we support your first amendment right to free speech and want you to be aware of the laws and policies of the University. The administration

presented to you information regarding your proposal for divestment as submitted by the student Trustee to the Board. That item is now on the agenda for the June meeting. Additionally, you have submitted an endowment divestment proposal to UMass Foundation, which they will review. Please remove your tents and structure now, and continue your advocacy through these channels. You are now trespassing. I want to stress that you have the right to express your views, but you do not have the right to place structures outside the limits of the Land Use Policy. You can demonstrate in this space, but you must dismantle and remove your tents and structures now. Any unclaimed tents and gear will be removed by the University police. Should you continue to not comply with University directives UMPD will respond, which may result in your arrest."

Demonstrators again refused to engage with the Demonstration Response Team. By that time hundreds of individuals had gathered around the encampment, including many individuals who were not affiliated with UMass Amherst, and a counter demonstrator had reported an assault which is currently under investigation.

[At this point an authorized faculty member attending on Zoom accidentally un-muted themselves, interrupting the meeting. The remarks were unrelated to the meeting and have been omitted.]

Due to the size of the crowd, the behavior observed by demonstrators like climbing trees, building fences, having a very different systematized approach to the positioning of the encampment in zones to defend the encampment, being ready to resist the dismantling of the encampment, and be arrested, and many individuals participating in the demonstration, who were not members of the campus, UMPD requested that other local agencies be on call to provide support, *if necessary*. The same way that they were on call for the previous encampment. UMPD started the approach to the encampment with the same numbers we did last week, but the need for backup grew larger that night, later that night, and our chief can explain more on those details later today. To be clear, we hoped for a peaceful and collaborative outcome, like we had with the first encampment, with no arrests. Our police officers, two of them are here today, approached the organizer in the same way that they approached the last time, explain the situation, and were received peacefully, initially, by those organizing the encampment. Jump to later, when the announcement was made that they needed to dismantle, the crowd did not comply.

As Chancellor, one of my greatest responsibilities is to do everything I can for the safety of our entire campus, including those in the encampment, so that we can fulfill our educational mission. We had to assess the situation. We had to assess the situation based on what we observed up to that moment. The situation was not about free speech, which we have consistently protected on our campus by having demonstrators abide with our policies. We reminded them of that that day, up until the moment, that last moment. We told them, take the encampment down, but continue with your demonstrations. I could not legitimately say at that moment that I was doing everything I could for the safety of our community with a fortified encampment built at the center of our campus, with at least one altercation being reported, a substantial crowd of individuals that were not recognized as members of our campus, our Demonstration Response Team reporting that we could not communicate with the crowd because of the screaming, of violent rhetoric, the verbal and physical intimidation of staff, huge crowds gathering, including counter demonstrators, and the growing concerns from members across the campus, about the

anxiety levels of our campus, and the climate on the campus. At 7 PM, I asked UMPD to disperse the crowd so that the university employees could safely remove the barricades and tents. The UMPD gave 3 warnings that anyone who did not leave the area was subject to arrest. The last police warning was at 7:34 PM. Approximately seven hours after the Demonstration Response Team first notified the demonstrators that their fortified encampment should be removed, and that they could continue with their demonstration. Over the next several hours, 134 arrests were made. We believe of those 134, approximately 70 were UMass Amherst students and 6 were faculty. The rest were not affiliated with the University.

Before I turn this over to my colleagues to discuss the time of events in more detail, I would like to emphasize that our approach to both encampments were identical. The first encampment ended peacefully and cooperatively, with activism continuing on our campus in the South Lawn for a number of days. Our approach to the second encampment was the same. But the dynamics of the engagement and responses were different. Something changed from one week to the other. After the encampment was taken down, we were able to get the faculty, the board to put the item on the agenda, the foundation Board to look at the divestment, and we were within hours of finishing our conduct process.

We have made tremendous progress, and it may not have been visible to all of you, and that's something that we will have to work on. One of the things that I asked the demonstrators that day was “Why do you need the encampment when we have given you access to use the space with our Land Use Policy. All you have to do is take down your displays by the end of the day. You can put them back the next day, you can continue with the demonstrations. You can raise and have risen the awareness of the campus, and your advocacy has paid off, is paying off, and will continue to pay off.” We're making steady progress even today. And even today I asked the same question. “Why do you need the encampment?”

As a community that values academic freedom and exploration we must work together to solve differences through recent debate and facts, not confrontations. All of us, students, faculty, staff administration. We're going to have to work together to ensure that this never happens again. I am committing to finding a better path forward. If that means reviewing our policies, let's start there. If that means adding capacity for mediation in our responses, we will do so. If it means expanding the Demonstration Response Team to include faculty and students, so that all the bodies that are sharing responsibility for the governance of this campus are aware of what's happening, then let's do so. It's all participating in the shared responsibility of that.

If we're going to make sure this doesn't happen again, we are all going to have to take responsibility in finding solutions. All of us. All of us actively engaging. All of us. I would now like to turn it to Vice Chancellor Perdomo-Ahmed, who will tell you more about the Administration Response team, and then we will have a couple of members, I think Farshid will speak, and then our chief will speak.

Vice Chancellor Perdomo-Ahmed: Thank you, Chancellor. So, Chancellor Reyes mentioned the inception of the Demonstration Response and Safety Team. This team was created in February of 2024 because of the conversations we had with students, and certainly reflecting on the incidents of October, we heard from our students, how can we find a better way of educating and engaging

our students, particularly when it comes to our policies and procedures? And so we created this Demonstration Response and Safety Team made up of staff.

And so, as you know, the responsibility of the team is really to support first amendment rights and free speech, while also educating and supporting the continuity of the University's operations. So, of course, goals are to communicate with the event leaders when actions by any individual or group are disruptive to university operations or could constitute a violation to our student code. In addition to that, it's also about ensuring that we, as staff, have the conversations, the negotiations, and have the connections with our students before law enforcement is involved in any way. So those are really the goals of our Demonstration Response and Safety Team, and we also want to make sure to give ample warning and notice to our students and provide them with the necessary information, so that they themselves can make informed decisions.

And so the Demonstration Response and Safety Team is activated to support demonstrations right? And so when the DRC team is activated, a team leader within the group or individual obviously is identified. And then the Demonstration Response and Safety Team leader will be responsible for coordinating and identifying two members of the team to assist and have conversations with the leaders of the potential group or organization. And so in this case there are two main functions obviously to have the conversation with the leaders of the group. You know to see what we can in terms of mediate and negotiate and bring back, depending on what's being asked, to the leadership team. In addition to that, the Demonstration Response and Safety Team observes and helps to intervene in the presence of disruptive behaviors. And so what I wanna say is that the team has been pretty successful since its inception. You know, we've engaged with some of our students in Whitmore and some of our grad students, and so, and I would say that it was also very successful during the very first encampment on April 29. And so at this time having provided you with this brief overview, I would like to turn it over now to two members of our Demonstration Response and Safety Team so that they can speak and provide their perspective.

Executive Director Hescock: Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Jeff Hescock. I'm Executive Director of Environmental Health and Safety and Emergency Management and a member of the Demonstration Response and Safety Team. And as Shelley, Vice Chancellor Shelley talked about, we've been activated four times this semester, and I'll talk just very briefly about the first two times, and then Farshid will talk about the last two times. I've been involved and engaged for each one of these, and the first one was at Whitmore on March 7. A demonstration that occurred outside the Chancellor's suite area, and we have a handout that we utilize, that talks about free speech as well as QR Codes to different policies here on the campus, and I went out, engaged with, talked with the leader, and had a great conversation as part of it. Around 3:30 the group demonstrated respectfully and peacefully, and then, when the office closed at 5 the group left, and that was the end of March 7. On March 14 there was a demonstration similarly outside the Chancellor's office there in Whitmore about a hundred or so individuals. We welcomed them when they walked into Whitmore as part of it, handing them this free speech document. And then, as part of it, the behavior outside of the Chancellor's suite, they were using amplified sound and bullhorns, so it was disrupting the continuity of operations here on the campus. So I went out and talk with the individuals and issued a notice and basically said, you are free to be here as long as you're not using the bullhorn, using amplified sound to disturb

the continuity of operations, and creating enough path for egress. About a half hour later I did have to go out one more time as part of it, and talk through notice two. And then after that it was roughly around 3:30, 4 o'clock, and then, as the building closes. So after that, the second time the group was very respectful, and then at 6 o'clock, as we were walking out, we just said that the building is closing and you do need to leave. And then shortly thereafter they did leave. So those are the first two times this semester that the group DRST was activated. And now I'll turn it over to Farshid to talk about the 2 other times.

Senior Vice Provost Hajir: Thank you, Jeff. Hi, I'm Farshid, Senior Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education. I'm also a member of the faculty in the department of Mathematics and Statistics. So, as was mentioned by Vice Chancellor Shelley Perdomo-Ahmed, the team is a cross-disciplinary team from representation from the different Vice Chancellor areas, including Student Affairs and Campus Life, Administration and Finance, Academic Affairs, and I'm a member from Academic Affairs who has been assigned to the team, as you know. Depending on our availability, we get deployed, you know, if we're available on campus and can leave other meetings and go. So I was not available or asked to participate in the first two that Jeff mentioned, but in the in the other two events, which were both encampments. On April 29 and 30, and May 7 into 8. I was a member of the team and approached the encampments on a number of occasions.

So just on the 29th, there were two notices that I was not involved with, but on the morning of the 30th we approached the camp and made the same announcement 4 times at 4 different locations. Student leaders very quickly identified themselves, and we actually talked to them first before making the announcement with the megaphone. It was the announcement that the Chancellor read out. The first statement has to do with “We are here to support your right to free speech”. And then we reiterated the fact that the encampment was not consistent with the Land Use Policy that we want them to stay there once the tents were taken down and removed, and that we would work with them to expedite the Land Use Policy to allow them to demonstrate for the rest of the day. The student leaders were extremely cooperative with us. This was early in the morning at 6:07 AM. Many of the students were in tents and asleep. And we had a back and forth process where we negotiated the speed with which the tents would come down, that we could assure that they were proceeding with the intent to disband the encampment, and they were extremely well organized, and they acted in unison, and by about 8:30 AM, the encampment was disbanded, mostly. There were a couple of tents that we negotiated with them to keep up, the large ones, because they had a lot of items, sleeping bags and bags and etc., that they needed to put somewhere inside and they informed us that they had plans for the entire week of activities on that lawn, so Jeff had brought a copy of the form. We showed them how to fill it out. We showed them the sections that they didn't need to fill out, that you know they were supposed to have done two weeks before, but we expedited the process, and that form, by the way, some of the concerns have to do with plans for evacuation, lightning, etc., and we expedited all of those. And we were authorized on the spot to give them the authorization to use that space.

My impression of our interactions with the student leaders was that they were very professional. They were appreciative. They shook hands with us at the end of the exchange, and only on one or two exchanges did members of the camp act in a rude way towards us, and the leaders

immediately put a stop to that, they said, “This is not what we do”. And so the encampment was taken down. The demonstrations continued for the whole week.

On May 7th, I was not present for the first morning, but I was for the subsequent ones. At 1:26 PM was the second notice. At 3:23 PM we had authorization from the Chancellor to tell the leaders that the Chancellor had agreed to one of their demands, which was to have a closed door meeting with four of their representatives. They selected their representatives, and they told us that the encampment was going to stay. They reiterated what they had written in the email. The encampment would stay unless their demands were met and at that point we were able to report back that they had agreed to the meeting, and the meeting took place which you heard about. After the meeting took place, we were sent in one more time to announce what the Chancellor read out in terms of the agreements that they had come to, and to ask one more time to disband and remove, and that they would be allowed to stay.

I just want to say that that last exchange where we were to read out the statements that the Chancellor mentioned was a very different experience from all the other ones. The crowd was extremely large at this point it was extremely loud. When we approached the crowd moved towards us and started chanting and whistling. There was a gentleman with a whistle. They came very close to us. There was a fair amount of rude comments made towards us, and it was not possible for anyone to hear the statement. However, Jeff did his job, which was to read it out over the megaphone, and we had made copies, and we distributed that to the people that we could. At that point we left.

So that's my account of those events. And I just want to add that the DRST was formed in February, and we've had successful examples of it working. We've also had this one example where it did not lead to a successful outcome. and I grieve for the campus, for the students who were arrested, and faculty, and others community members. And I believe that as a learning institution the process we're going through now to learn about what happened and to make improvements is something that we can all be committed to.

Vice Chancellor Perdomo-Ahmed: At this moment we'll invite chief Parham.

UMPD Chief Parham: Okay, good afternoon everyone, thank you for having me. So I have a brief comment just on the events of both April 29th and May 9th. And I won't repeat everything, but on April 29th, from our perspective, we definitely had planning going on. I think, as the Chancellor mentioned, we're aware of the encampment. We're aware of the Demonstration Response Team. And we were aware of the successful outcome that Farshid just mentioned. But from a law enforcement- from a public safety- perspective, we can't always plan for the best case scenario and for the outcome to result in compliance. So we, you know, from a contingency plan perspective. We always have to have plans that are fluid and kind of set up for worst case scenario. On April 29 we had plans. We had pretty much all of my UMPD officers employed in case things didn't go so well. And it wasn't, you know, a trespassing situation. We, for April 29 had additional law enforcement here in case things didn't go as well. But April 29, things went well. We all went home, and the demonstration still continued without the encampment, without the trespass issue.

So going into that on May 7 or I'm sorry. May 9 or actually, yeah, May 7, we actually had the same approach. And quite frankly we were hoping for, and pretty confident, about the same outcome, and that being 0 arrests, that was our goal, you know, April 29, with a best case, and that was our goal May 7, as any of my officers and my command staff that are here today, they will tell you the exact same thing. But again. from a planning contingency, best case, worst case, we have to be fluid. We have to be able to adjust. We have to consider the campus public safety so that we have minimum chance of anyone getting hurt. And it's a situation being resolved. It's these are just fluid moving pieces here. Particularly when you have, you know, some, you know, UMass Amherst affiliates, and then we have some that are not. So there's just a lot of unknown.

So for May 7th, we also plan for unknowns. and we were aware of a number of the verbal conversations from the Demonstration Response Team throughout the day. We were also aware that there seemed to be not a lot of yeah, there was not any indication just yet, but then we are aware, of course, there was a meeting that was scheduled, I believe, that the Chancellor had with with some of the leaders, and we were again hopeful that we would all go home that night with 0 arrests. And I will repeat that I will repeat that continuously, because that was definitely our goal that night.

That ended up not happening. As the Chancellor said, around 7 o'clock, the Chancellor informed us that the negotiations had ended. Demonstration Response Team had provided multiple warnings in orders to tear down the tents, the protective walls, the wooden pallets, and the fencing on the west side of the campus pond, where the police would be called. So UMPD was indeed informed that those were prohibited by university policy, and the willful continued violation of university policies regarding Land Use Policy caused the University to deem the group as trespassing.

Secretary Paik: Presiding Officer. Point of order, point of order, Presiding Officer. There are comments from the back of the room. Could you issue a ruling.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Yes, remember, we must maintain the decorum of the room, so there should be no cheers, boos, applause, or other emotional outbursts. People that cannot maintain the decorum of the body will be asked to leave are. So mindful of the time, we're now 7 min over the time that was allotted for the Administration. Or have the administrative remarks concluded? And if so, we'll move to the next item, the agenda, with questions submitted from the members of UMass Amherst to be delivered by the Secretary.

[A comment was made in the room that was not picked up by any microphones]

Senator Olsen: The Presiding Officer cannot hear anything that's not in a microphone.

Presiding Officer Brewer: That's correct. I can't hear things that aren't set into the microphones.

Secretary Paik: Presiding Officer, can you hear me?

Presiding Officer Brewer: Yes, I can. I can.

Secretary Paik: Just so you could hear there are snapping in the background. And just to provide some context, I'm providing a point of order. We're operating under Robert's Rules, which has the decorum expectations. And I would suggest, under our rules, if nonmembers do not comply with the decorum expectations that we will have to proceed with alternatives at some point. So I hope we can have the meeting, but I expect, I hope, and I ask you to confirm, that this ruling that we will comply with Robert Rules here.

Presiding Officer Brewer: That is correct, we're going to comply with Robert's Rules, and if the meeting can't be held with the appropriate level of decorum, we will adjourn, and we'll be unable to hear the rest of the questions that the community has put forward. Remember, this is not the administration speaking here. This is a body of the faculty, and I hope you'll respect the faculty and allow the faculty voices to be heard. And the members of our community that have put forward the questions that we would like to find out about the events that happened on May seventh, and eighth.

UMPD Chief Parham: Okay, I think I'm gonna continue now, and I will try to keep this brief, thank you. So at approximately 7 PM Lieutenant Brian Henault and Deputy Chief Damian DeWolf began to approach those that appeared to be the lead organizers for this demonstration, and they began to politely ask them to remove the structures, and I say politely, very intentional. They had a great casual conversation. They explained diligently to the group that they were considered trespassing unless they took the encampment down. There was a question answer period that was again polite, that led to Lieutenant Henault saying he would implore them, basically begged them to please take it down, as we did not want to have anyone arrested.

Dispersal orders then began at 7:11 PM as the group had no indications they were going to take the encampment down. So dispersal orders over loudspeakers 7:11 PM, 7:24 PM, 7:29 PM, 7:34 PM, as the now trespassers would not stop trespassing. The first arrest was made at approximately 7:40 PM, and the last arrest after 1:00 in the morning with trespassers getting given any opportunity to leave at any time and not get arrested. At the end of it, it was a total of a 134, I believe, as the Chancellor said, approximately 70 students, 6 faculty, those arrests included trespassing, failure to disperse, and some for additional resisting arrests.

Some of the things I've heard the last week have been about use of force. So I'll just get some of these comments out, and some of the other things, I think may be on your mind just as a general. Every day, you know, UMPD, we try to deescalate. We try to use no force when every situation, on every situation where there's probable cause for an arrest. Our goal is to not have any force, and that's actually pretty much the majority of our arrest that we do do. Mere presence. It's verbal. Most arrests have 0 force, and that's actually out of the 134 most arrests happened that night with 0 force. I have seen some of the video that you've seen. I've seen a lot more video, probably, than you haven't seen, though, you know, because I've seen a lot of video with all the other arrests. I have seen a couple of the arrests that did involve uses of force to overcome. And I've just explained that typically the officers are trained that they use just enough force to overcome the resistance and not anything more, so that force is just to overcome the resistance. And I should also note about that force that as we photograph and booked 134 arrestees, and asked them about injuries, we've received 0 reports of injuries as it relates to use of force.

Some of the things I'd also mentioned, different from the May 7th, was the assault I think one of the other presenters mentioned. At 6:40 PM one of our students reported being slapped in the back of the head near the library, with a disagreement with one of the demonstrators. So we knew this was a different crowd. The other things in a different crowd is the crowd continued to build. Was, we heard chance, for example, chanting, that we're not leaving, and we knew then, as some of those arrests were calming and hundreds now, people were forming, and the crowd continued to build that we were quite frankly going to need more officers than we initially planned for is again my goal was 0 arrest, and that was our initial plan. But as the crowd continued to grow and the chance kept coming, that chance were even something like you don't have enough. They don't have enough to arrest us that we realized we were going to need more staff. So we had already had the State police there. They didn't start asking for even additional State police to come to the area to assist. We already had town of Amherst police. We already had now town of Hadley. So now we are also the State police are requesting more additional as we're realizing that this crowd is continuing to form is now the arrests are starting to happen for failure to disperse because they're not leaving, and also for trespass. And as we were now removing people who were kind of surrounding the encampment. They were now being replaced with others that were coming in, so it was even tough to get into the encampment itself as the crowd just kept forming, so I know the numbers were indeed much higher as far as law enforcement's present, and we had ever imagined that day. But we end up needing those numbers to make sure to be as safe as possible quite frankly too. We now have people who are refusing to leave a lawful order of failure to disperse, and there was no sign of anyone leaving on their own. So we did need to call in additional resources that evening that again we did not initially plan for, and did not hope for.

And, as mentioned earlier, this was not a UMass crowd, but there were definitely non-UMass folks and a lot of unknowns going on in this crowd. So lastly and I'll keep it short as a reminder. We do have as you know, the criminal justice and the due process system are in play right now. So I believe the first arraignments were occurring yesterday. There were arraignments today. And having that mind, I just want to mention that again. This is the obvious. But those 134, innocent until proven guilty, they're all represented likely by counsel, and the district attorney's office is following up on those charges. That's all. Here. Thank you.

2. Questions submitted from members of UMass-Amherst

Chancellor Reyes: Okay, I think now we have the questions.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Very good. Thank you, Chancellor. We will now recognize the Secretary to read a series of questions that were submitted from members of UMass Amherst These questions were vetted by the Secretary, myself, and the chair of the Rules Committee to produce representative questions that cover them. You are recognized, Secretary, to read the questions.

Secretary Paik: Thank you. Presiding Officer. In anticipation of this special meeting the Rules Committee believed that there would be intense interest by members, of course of the campus, and in terms of proposing questions to administration about the events of May seventh and May eighth, the Rules Committee believed that many questions would be redundant or variants of a

prior question. So, in the interest of efficiency, they solicited questions beforehand. The Senate office received over 100 question topics, many of which were actually compound or multipart questions. The Presiding Officer, Chair of the Rules Committee, and myself, as Secretary of the Senate, worked to condense those 100 plus questions into 17 unique questions, with each question representing a group of questions for transparency, the full list of questions can be found as a special report of the Rules Committee, Senate document number 24-089, which can be found in the meeting website as supplemental materials.

So the first question has to do with negotiations with encampment student protesters. There were 7 questions along these lines along these lines. The question is, did the Chancellor consider taking a position similar to other universities that successfully negotiated with the protesters to dismantle the encampments over a period of time, and resulted in a peaceful resolution.

Chancellor Reyes: I would say that when we were negotiating with them, we told them very clearly that we had to hold our policies, and the demands that they were requesting, they were being addressed without the need of the encampment .

Unidentified Crowd Member That's a non-answer!

Secretary Paik: Point of order.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Yes, Secretary.

Secretary Paik: There are people in the crowd who are shouting things so could you provide some directions as to how they participate? I apologize. I know everyone has a lot of questions, but I think in our interest, I hope we can get through this meeting without having to cancel it. But we can't proceed through the meeting of people are interrupting it. I apologize. I really wish we can get through this meeting, but ultimately, if we can't proceed under our rules, this meeting will end.

Presiding Officer Brewer: We've organized this meeting in a particular way, as a Faculty Senate meeting in order to provide Faculty Senators who are representatives of the faculty to have responses from the administration about the issues. And I really hope that people will continue to respect the decorum of the faculty and allow us to have this meeting, held in public, so that everyone can hear the results.

Secretary Paik: Can I move to the next question?

Presiding Officer Brewer: Yes, go ahead.

Secretary Paik: So the next question has to do with inconsistencies in negotiation comments. There were 3 questions along these lines. In this special report we have a linked document to an Amherst Indie article provided by a faculty member. In this linked report by a faculty member which has been circulated widely, the student protesters, asserted that the Chancellor has the unilateral power to meet their demands. From your perspective, to what extent is this accurate or inaccurate.

Chancellor Reyes: The demonstrators report that I have the unilateral power to meet their demands?

Secretary Paik: Yes, I believe there was a report, I believe that was submitted to you from a faculty member that made a number of claims as a witness to the negotiations, and I think the question was, to what extent do you agree or disagree with some of the claims in that report?

Chancellor Reyes: Well, at first I would disagree that I have unilateral power to satisfy the demands. I've explained one of them that it's just academic freedom. I mean, I cannot tell a faculty member what research they can or cannot do. I cannot tell the students, student organization, what kind of speakers they can bring to campus or not. So I don't have unilateral power.

Secretary Paik: Presiding Officer, can I move to the next question?

Presiding Officer Brewer: Yes, you may move the next question. Thank you, Secretary.

Secretary Paik: So the next question, we have 16 questions to the basic question of "why call the police?" What was the Chancellor's reasoning for calling the police on the encampment only after a few hours, rather than let it stay up for a longer period of time, as many other schools have allowed? What was the public safety threat that relates to the risk associated with bringing in armed riot police to disperse peaceful protesters?

Chancellor Reyes: I mean as I describe the situation, I'm happy to read again, if you prefer, of what was the situation we were facing, and I'm happy to do it. The situation was not about free speech we have consistently protected on campus. But I could not demonstrate- we reminded on that date, take down the encampment and continue with the demonstrations. I could not legitimately say that I was doing everything I could do for the safety of our community with a fortified encampment building in the center of our campus, at least one altercation being reported, a substantial crowd of individuals that were not recognized as members of our campus, our Demonstration Response Team reporting that they could not communicate with the crowd because of the screaming of violent rhetoric, the verbal and physical intimidation of the staff. huge crowds gathering, including counter demonstrators and the growing concerns from members across campus, about the anxiety levels and climate of the campus.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you. Chancellor, Secretary.

Secretary Paik: We have 7 questions about timeline regarding bringing in the police. Could the administration provide a clear and public timeline of when the police, including State Police and SERT, which stands for a Special Emergency Response Team, were called to Campus, who specifically made the request.

UMPD Chief Parham: Thank you. So I want to say the State police was around 4 PM-ish, as far as arriving on campus, and it would have been my department or me that would have requested the State police as a contingency. Was there a second part of that?

Secretary Paik: Yes, who specifically made the request.

UMPD Chief Parham: For the State police? It would be myself.

Secretary Paik: Point of order.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Yes, Secretary.

Secretary Paik: There's people asking questions from the bank for the back of the room.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Again. The only people that have the floor are faculty senators, and only during item 3 of the agenda, when we'll open the floor to questions from the members of the Faculty Senate. All other statements are out of order in this meeting. Secretary, you may continue.

Secretary Paik: Next question has to do with trespass. There are 3 questions along these lines. Those arrested, including people who are not in the encampment, were charged with trespassing. Who made the determination that their presence constituted trespassing? At what time of the day was that determined to make?

UMPD Chief Parham: I can take that as well. The police made it what was initially by the Chancellor. But then, once we arrived and now started beginning dispersal orders, those dispersal orders by the police, not the Demonstration Response Team. Those dispersal orders began from the police, and I'll just get my times correctly here. Yeah. 7:11 PM, then 7:24 PM, 7:29 PM, and then 7:34 PM.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chief. Secretary Paik.

Secretary Paik: The next topic area was regarding arrest and the use of force; there were ten questions along these lines. Did any police unit receive specific instructions from the UMass Amherst Administration regarding how to deal with protesters at the encampment, for example, were they explicitly told to not use violence against community members unless it needed to be done in to protect other people's safety.

UMPD Chief Parham: I didn't catch all of that question. Can you repeat that back? Thank you.

Secretary Paik: Did any police unit receive specific instructions from the UMass Amherst Administration regarding how to deal with protesters at the encampment, for example, were they explicitly told to not use violence against community members unless they need to be done to protect other people's safety.

UMPD Chief Parham: I would say that's 365 days a year. That's every day, as far as any interactions with our community, whether you are trespassing, or failure to disperse, or an assault and battery, or any type of law enforcement violation. We- that's every day.

Secretary Paik: Point of order.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Secretary.

Secretary Paik: There was a surprising breakouts of coughing in the room. So I'm worried about people's health, of course, but just wanted to point out that there's disruptions from the from the back of the room.

Presiding Officer Brewer: I really wish people would cease continuing disrupting the proceedings. We're asking questions. We're hearing the answers. We can all interpret what those answers mean. And I would like to get through the rest of the questions so that we can give an opportunity for the faculty senators to ask the questions that they have from the floor. Secretary may proceed.

Secretary Paik: Thank you, Presiding Officer. There were 2 questions about police accountability. What is the review process for police accountability related to the arrests, including injuries sustained by protesters.

UMPD Chief Parham: Yeah, again, I can take that. Obviously, as I mentioned earlier, all Arrestees would have been photographed and asked during the booking process if they had any injuries, so that accountability occurs there. It also occurs at the scene. As before we transferred anyone we looked them over and see if they have any injuries, or require assistance by a paramedic or anyone from the Amherst Fire. Related to that, we actually had someone from Amherst fire kind of embedded into our police State detail that night, in case there was an immediate need for medical, we would not have to wait for an ambulance, we could address the medical right away.

And then, of course, we have supervisors on scene that are also making sure that our folks are following policies and procedures. And I think it begins at training. And then also if there's any levels of use of force that needs to be reported separately by the officers, there's a supervisory review there. And ultimately, if someone wishes to file an official complaint, they could do so through our website or walking into the UMPD lobby. If it was against a member of the State police they would need to file a complaint with the members of the Massachusetts State Police.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chief. Secretary?

Secretary Paik: Thank you, Presiding Officer. We have 4 questions along the lines of civil disobedience or civil unrest. In Chancellor's view, what is the difference between civil disobedience and civil unrest. To what extent do the events that from May 7 and May 8 fall into either of these 2 categories?

Chancellor Reyes: I'm not a scholar on it, but I can tell you what I've been- what the policies have told us is. There's policies of the university that define how you can do your demonstrations, and there's guidelines for it. They're very visible to everyone. When you violate those guidelines, and when you don't request the Land Use Policy, when you go into a classroom or and disrupt the class, or you go into an office and disrupt the operations, that is breaking policy, that’s within the university with civil disobedience.

That's simple, I suppose now, when it's civil unrest, and I'm not going to go into civil unrest other than I'm sure that when you're resisting arrest or when you're the resisting a dispersion order by a police officer that's also, I'm guessing, that's where it goes.

But I'll tell you one of the things that the policies that again you, you, all of all of us, have passed for this campus, for demonstration guidelines, for policies on conduct. They're very clear. They're very clear. So.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chancellor. Secretary?

Secretary Paik: We have 6 questions along the lines of viewpoint neutrality. If a right-wing extremist group sought to set up an encampment, how would campus policies be applied in that case, if there was a precedent for allowing encampments to stand.

Chancellor Reyes: Can you read that again?

Secretary Paik: If a right-wing extremist group set up an encampment, how would campus policies be applied in that case, if there was a precedent for allowing encampments to stand?

Chancellor Reyes: I mean, if anybody sets up an encampment on the campus, we would respond same way.

Secretary Paik: But if there was a precedent of allowing an encampment to stand?

[Vice Chancellor Perdomo-Ahmed says something not picked up clearly by the microphones regarding the question.]

Chancellor Reyes: Yes. Yes, I mean, if you had allowed them to say if you, if once you set a precedent, you're going to have to allow them to say the next one.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chancellor. Secretary?

Secretary Paik: The next set of questions had to do with impacts on students with opposing views. Did the Administration receive reports that students and employees felt threatened by the encampment, as well as prior protests. What role, if any, did this information play into your decision-making?

Chancellor Reyes: It didn't, I mean, did we receive them. Yes. Do I put them into what the climate of the campus was? Yes, but it has nothing to do with the violation of the policies. The violation of the policy is what is leading to the dismantling of the encampment .

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chancellor. Secretary?

Secretary Paik: We received 6 questions along the lines of protester demands. Could the Chancellor have conceded the Protesters' demands and avoided the violent arrests of the students

while not violating the academic freedom of those faculty, staff, students, and other stakeholders opposed to BDS and SJP's demands.

Chancellor Reyes: No.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chancellor. Secretary?

Secretary Paik: So the next set of questions have to do with the fallout. And we're almost done with our questions. So the first fallout questions have to do with Chancellor to attend along these lines. Many feel that you've broken their trust. Have you considered apologizing, abstaining from participation in commencement, or even resigning?

Chancellor Reyes: I can tell you that what we did, and the decision that was made at that time was given the given the dynamics that we were observing at the time, and again, in good conscious, if we want to keep an- I could do my best to keep the campus safe. That's something we had to do.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chancellor. Secretary?

Secretary Paik: Thank you, Presiding Officer. We got 12 questions along the lines of fallout related to climate, learning, and reputation. People have identified potential fallout on the campus's climate, learning, and reputation. What is the plan for rebuilding a positive campus in in consequence of recent events?

Chancellor Reyes: Well, I'm glad that you're asking that question, because that's the one that I was referring to at the part last part of my remarks. We have a shared governance on this campus, then we have to have shared responsibility on those things, and we're going to have to meet to talk about what the different situations that the Chief was describing. But we were describing, and the fact that if we're going to have an encampment and allow for policy violations, and that's going to be allowed, well, then, we need to have a conversation about that as a campus.

And we need to figure out what are those policies that we're gonna live and be living with? If anything, I would say, as I was mentioning the idea of moving faster, being able to have this this connectivity built before. That's something that I wish we could do better, and we will do better. We have to have that connectivity with our students, with our faculty, with our staff, to be able to look at the policies we have, and then what does it mean when somebody breaks them? We can do instead of doing what just happened? Debriefing after events have happened. We could do what ifs? And we could spend a lot of time together looking at what is even over the last 2 or 3 years, and figuring out, would that be acceptable? Is that something we want to live with? So we are going to- I mean, we know we have a lot of work to rebuild the confidence across the campus, and we're going to do so.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chancellor. Secretary?

Secretary Paik: Thank you, Presiding Officer. The next question also has to do with fallout related to policing in the aftermath of May seventh and May eighth. Have there been concrete changes in policing and patrolling on campus?

UMPD Chief Parham: No, no, I would say not. I think obviously, we're you know we're here every day. We have, you know, the safety of our community as our number one priority and minimizing our goal that night was 0 arrests and minimizing any risk of injury, or, you know, policy violation, or just continued support of keeping the campus safe. I think one of the previous questions related to, and I think the Chancellor mentions this as well, but just our climate right now, and not everyone's feeling safe on our campus, and I think you know, we are very intentional about whether it be, you know, visible patrols, or sometimes we've been requested to have plain clothes officers at different places because folks are not feeling safe. Sometimes we've done physical escorts. Our safety escorts people to get to point A to point B right now. So we are very mindful that not everyone is feeling as safe as everyone else on the campus. So we have a large campus and we're trying to accommodate everyone's needs. So we're doing our best. I think we're always- related to that- we're always striving and looking to do better. So yeah, we're here for the community.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chief. Secretary?

Secretary Paik: Thank you, Presiding Officer. We had 3 questions along the lines of fallout related to accountability. Will the Chancellor establish an Independent Committee to investigate the wave of camp protests and the Code of Conduct sanctions and issue recommendations?

Chancellor Reyes: That's my hope that we're going to get together and talk about all of it. All of it, not just that day, but everything started back in October, and we look at all of it, and we have to learn from it.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chancellor. Secretary?

Secretary Paik: Thank you, Presiding Officer. Our last question. There were 10 questions along these lines. What lessons has the Chancellor learned from this experience that will inform his decision-making in the future?

Chancellor Reyes: I say again. even just what we know, that being part of the Board of Trustees being able to have the agenda item there being able to have the foundation look at the request. Being able to move, now, the conduct process forward, making that more visible to all of you is something that we're going to need to do. And we're making progress towards the demands of students or the request of students, as I like to see them sometime. We're going to have to report more on that, and we're going to do it in the Faculty Senate, and we're going to do it in the Graduate Student Senate, and we're going to do it in Student Government, in SGA. That is going to be important, when we are making progress, whether it's in this case with respect to the conduct process or the demand to be part of it, we're going to provide more updates to all of you.

But I think that we will need also your participation in looking again at our policies. I have been looking at a way to solve the conduct process in a way that it would not be based on 55 students,

but that it could help thousands of students that takes time. That takes consulting. That takes a lot of patience as you're talking to different groups. Something that was missing in our conduct process, and we knew it from the start is, it is not for a university like UMass as we are. It is not very focused on restorative justice, and I needed to look at that deeply, very deeply.

Not only now we didn't have a lot of help. People didn't want to talk to us a lot when it was to this issue. But I think that now, working with GSS, who brought to the table a lot of proposals, and SGA, who brought to the table a lot of proposals, and our Rules Committee who brought to the table a lot of proposals, I think we have found a way that is going to help not only 55, but thousands of students to be able to have that opportunity to say something. There was a policy that was broken. That's something that should remain on our campus. So that's something that we have already worked on, and it's something that now its advisory boards are looking at and be able to move this forward, but that takes time and process and dedication and commitment from everyone. That was but one part of one policy. We have to look at our Land Use Policy if we're not liking it. Let's look at the Land Use Policy altogether. Let's actually spend some time looking at the policies that govern our campus, so that we actually have a way to move forward every time something happens in our campus. So.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chancellor. And Secretary with that we've concluded these questions.

Secretary Paik: That was her last question. Thank you, Chancellor and Administration for answering questions, and thank you for all that, submitted the questions early. I hope we've adjusted those many questions that were submitted to us, so we had to do this this morning. Thank you.

3. Open questions from members of the Senate

Presiding Officer Brewer: And with that we're going to move to Item 3 on the agenda, open questions from members of the Senate. So there's a microphone that is on the floor, and I'd like to have members of the Senate that wish to address question to the administrative panel. Come and maintain a speaking order, and I will time 3 minutes and we will have people ask questions for the administration. And when recognized, please identify yourself to the body.

Senator Goldner: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. I would have thought in this day and age that there would be an implicit understanding that bringing riot police to a peaceful protest is in itself a form of violence that escalates everything. But in October 2022, to much fanfare, UMass Amherst became the fourteenth university signatory onto the Okanagan Charter. A multinational document that calls for holistic approaches to health promotion and participatory decision-making, including engaging voices of students and community members, valuing indigenous communities, contexts, and priorities, and acting on existing universal responsibilities enshrined in the universal declaration of human rights to ensure health promotion, action embodies principles of social justice. Calling in a veritable army of heavily equipped state local police to descend on a group of peaceful protesters- antiwar protesters at that- and who are also calling for greater transparency. Police, who subsequently carried out forceful and violent mass arrests of faculty, staff, students, and other community members that were captured on video effectively

silencing and dismantling an otherwise educational and peaceful demonstration space. This seems antithetical to these much touted commitments. What I'd like to know is this administration- how will the Administration engage in repair of the violation of trust and harm it has already caused? And what reassurances do we have that these commitments will not be breached again?

Chancellor Reyes: Thank you for the question, as I mentioned, just to the and the question that we just answered. We will form a group that includes faculty, students, and staff to look at this. and we're saying it here publicly. It will happen. it will happen. All I ask is that people participate in it. There's some times in which it's hard to get participation. Let's all participate on this. It will happen.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chancellor. Next question.

Senator Sher: So thank you for coming here today to answer our questions. I think that there's a distinction between 2 things, a number one having rules and number 2, how you enforce the rules. So it's one thing to say that we have rules such as the Land Use Policy and another the decision how to enforce it and when to call in. I think the main concern is that the police were called in too quickly, and once the police are called in, there's a risk that things do not go well, as indeed that is what happened. I believe that some universities did let the encampments, encampments go for a while without calling the police, even though it was against their rules. So, my question, how do you think that we should think about the trade-off between calling in the police sooner versus later in general. Should we always call in the police quickly, say the first day? And how do you view the costs and benefits of calling in the police sooner versus later? How do you think you'll think about such decisions in the future? And is the speed with which the police were called in something that you want to review for the future?

Chancellor Reyes: I don't know if the Chief answered some points about this, but when it comes to- you're assuming that as a University we will change our policies to allow encampment. That has to be the first thing. If you want to have encampment, that's- this group that we just talked about- let's talk about it. Then that's the thing. First, let's start with that question. And then, okay, what is the speed of calling the police? That's where we have to have this demonstration response team. We have to expand that, to include faculty, to include more staff, to include students that can be assessing the situation as we go- with us together. That's what we're committing to.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chancellor. Next question.

Senator Sollinger: Thank you, Presiding Officer Brewer. I had the chance to ask the Chancellor some questions last week which I appreciated. My question today has to do with a police response. When you invite police into a situation as was done while negotiations with students were happening between administrators and students, as well as one of my colleagues and the faculty who was among the first to be arrested, you invite violence. So when you invite the police you invite violence. My question is, and I'm emotional because I brought a student home who had been tackled to the pavement. My question is, did administrators have a statement prepared in the event the police killed a student?

Secretary Paik: Point of order.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Secretary.

Secretary Paik: We had some late arrivals, and I was wondering if you could specify the decorum expectations regarding snapping.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Yes, everyone here is requested to please observe the following ground rules for the special meeting today. By my discretion as Presiding Officer under section 1-2-1, only faculty senators, will be granted the privilege of the floor. Remember that all questions and comments are directed to the Presiding Officer. There is to be no direct speech between participants. Finally, please maintain appropriate decorum for the body. There shall be no cheers, boos, applause, or other emotional outbursts. Please thank you for observing these rules. Chancellor. You have the floor.

UMPD Chief Parham: And I was just going to answer the last question. The answer is no.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chief. Next question.

Senator Briggs: One of the things that seems to be the starting place for this discussion is that we agree that encampments are not allowed here, but, as we know, the Land Use Policy says nothing about tents. That an encampment was allowed in 2023 overnight, and an encampment was allowed in 2011 for several weeks, in solidarity with Occupy Wall Street. I myself was part of an encampment at UMass in the mid 1980s in support of divesting from apartheid in South Africa, something that was hardly supported at the time, but is now celebrated on the President's web page. But at none of these points where the police called, and I just want to make sure that we're all aware of the factual consequences of what happened.

Some of those arrested report being roughly treated, knocked to the ground, kicked, and hit with batons by arresting officers. Students who had been arrested reported harsh treatment, including being zip-tied tight enough to cause bleeding and shoulder injuries, and being denied access to bathrooms for as much as 10 hours. A student was taken from the protest by ambulance, and I have reports from public sources that she spent the night in the ED with a broken leg. Apparently, that is now the subject of a complaint with the Mass Attorney General.

I have an unconfirmed report of a student with broken ribs. I have seen myself many students with bruises on their bodies. And these arrests included tossing and tackling students kneeling on their backs and being unable to breathe as officers, kneeled on their backs, restraining them in a prone position which, as we know, is an extremely dangerous thing to do, and I want to understand how this is. Frankly let me say it from my heart. I have spent my entire career trying to support students through all of their traumas and mental health issues and their struggle with their moral questions. And I see my students doing their best to express their moral questions with their bodies, and I am horrified to see the University that I have served hurting those students this badly. And I want to know how this has anything to do with keeping the campus safe. Last year, when students were flipping cars at Theta Chi, nobody felt the need to roughly arrest students. I don't understand what happened.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Chancellor?

UMPD Chief Parham: Yeah, I'll try to understand some of those things, and I'm not sure where the source of some of the information there was, but I most of those-

[Unintelligible response from the audience.]

UMPD Chief Parham: Right. So I've seen some of those things on social media. My suggestion is for any of those individuals who believe that there was excessive force, or any type of violent force against them, they should definitely file a complaint. Obviously, we have a, you know, great room of academia here. And we all know I'm seeing so many things online, some of the things quite frankly, even a video we've seen- just haven't- we haven't seen it. So my suggestion is that if there's someone or an individual that says that there was excessive force that happens that needs to be reported to the police.

I was going to mention zip ties, by the way, one thing you did mention, that typically versus metal handcuffs, in these types of situations, zip ties are actually the- I mean either way, when you're restrained neither are comfortable- but zip ties are many times the more comfortable method versus the metal, the metal handcuffs. The other thing, I would say, is again our goal was 0 arrests. For multiple hours people had multiple choices and decisions to make and to leave without any type of any type of overcoming resistance. And, as I mentioned earlier, most of the 134 arrests, most of those people offered 0 resistance, and they just kind of walked out. They got zip-tied, and that was it. So, I'm not familiar with all of the situations that were just described. But again, those would need to be reported so that they could be followed up on.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chief. Next question.

Senator Krezmien: In your remarks you stated that we need to work together through debate, not confrontation. I applaud that statement, and that sentiment. Based on what I have heard today, you made a decision to utilize a policy related to trespass as a call to mobilize armed law enforcement against students and faculty. I would suggest that telling students that they would be arrested if they did not take down the encampment was viewed as a threat. I don't see that as a demonstration of debate as opposed to confrontation. The reason that was viewed as a threat is that in October you approved the arrest of 57 members of the UMass community for trespass. My question is 2 parts, how is the declaration to students that they would be arrested, and the ultimate decision to have students arrested, a demonstration of your call for debate and not confrontation? And, importantly, how do your actions to mobilize armed police for student protesters represent our UMass slogan, “Be Revolutionary”?

Chancellor Reyes: Thank you for the question, and I would say, if you take the only the statement about “If you don't take your encampment down, you'll be arrested” and forget the 6 hours of negotiations and the messaging across the whole thing, then, of course it seems unreasonable. But there was a lot of conversations that happened before. There were a lot of conversations, negotiations, and I will remind people today. But some people are saying, while other universities have turned down their encampment they took down the encampment by achieving what we had achieved already, which was having time with the board, having time

with the foundation board, and being able to talk about the kind of process we had accomplished this before this happened.

Representative for Senator-Elect Ivanova: Why and on what grounds were campus buildings like the Mullins Center and transportation services that University owns repurposed for detention? And this faculty member is also asking about the situation of students while they were at the Mullins Center, some of them many, many hours. Can you react to that?

UMPD Chief Parham: Sure I can. I can take that one. You know our main UMPD police stations at 585 East Pleasant, and the infrastructure is just not built for 134 arrests during one time. So as a contingency, we needed a holding place temporarily so that we could get people removed from this, from off the site, to another temporary location, while others folks were being processed and booked and then bailed at our police station. So our police station just simply could not hold 134 people. We quickly found an alternative transportation as well as the Mullins. We quickly assembled officers to utilize restrooms in the Mullins Center as well as at our police station. So we quickly assembled those logistics. Again, those weren't initially, logistically planned, because, again. as I've said about 8 times, our goal was 0 arrests. But we did have to modify those plans and contingencies to allow for adequate temporary space in the Mullins, and then to UMPD for processing and then for bail clerk, and then for release.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chief. Next question.

Senator Bushouse: My daughter is graduating from UMass this weekend, and she was peacefully following her friends who had been arrested. The police turned on them with strobe lights, tasers and batons out. It caused a stampede where she fell, and she's got bruises up and down her legs. There was a girl that got her leg broke. These were people who were following the arrests. So I want to know. I'm a mom. I'm a faculty member. Why did they do that? Why would they turn on the peaceful people behind them- who are just *chanting*- with strobe lights and cause a stampede.

That's my question. I have another one. So I'm just wondering. Colson Whitehead has pulled out of graduation. I was really looking forward to hearing his address, and I'm very disappointed, and I feel that this graduation where my family and friends are coming, you've taken the joy out of it. And I honestly don't understand why. Why, as a leader. you made the choice to enforce it. At that time, when I was at arraignments yesterday, in court, it was 5 college students who were there arrested. And they're not being counted as students. Okay, they were Amherst community members there. They're not being counted. So these mythical people who were coming to wage violence. I don't know who you're talking about. What I saw were really scared kids whose parents were not with them, and thank goodness for Rachel Weber, because she was there explaining it to everyone. And I as a mom, as a faculty member who's been here for many, many years. I just don't understand. So my questions for you are how will your actions affect the UMass recruitment? Right now parents are putting down that money. If my daughter were a freshman, incoming, I would not put down that money. I think we're going to see a lava flow of melt. And who's going to put down money? And then, similarly, I've heard from our grads, our alumni and I'm just- they're not going to give. So did you consider the long-term impacts on our ability to get money from our donors? Those are my questions. Thank you.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Chancellor?

Chancellor Reyes: I mean, yes, we consider that. And just like we received letters and emails about people that are unhappy with this. We also receive letters and emails of people that are that want to have their commencement without disruptions. That want to be on a campus where there's the policies are being followed, so they're in both sides. Both from alumni as well as from the recruiting side. There's not just one side to this.

UMPD Chief Parham: And I was just gonna take the first part of the question. We're not aware of any taser use or baton use. I am aware of one fall, one fall victim transport, but the baton and and taser. I have seen notices about that on social media, and but with all of the hundreds of, you know, cell phone videos that were out that evening, and some of the ones that have been sent to us. We've not seen any, and we've talked to all the law firms and partners that were there about taser use or baton use. So I just wanted to clarify that. And also wherever she's at congratulations for your graduate.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chief. Next question.

Senator Bushouse: I said stroke lights and tasers, and-

Presiding Officer Brewer: I'm sorry, your comments are out of order. Only faculty members on the floor are- Please refrain from emotional outbursts. There's a faculty member that is waiting to ask questions. You have the floor, sir.

Secretary Paik: Presiding Officer, I think Senator Bushouse was asking a follow-up question.

Unidentified Speaker: Is it my turn?.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Yes, you may. You have the floor. Please announce yourself, and then you may speak.

Senator Bushouse: Okay. So I did not say that they use their tasers or batons. What I said is, they charged the students by blinding them with strobe lights, and then chasing them with tasers and batons. My daughter was there. We have all these young people in this audience with bruises. Her wrists are bruised from the zip ties. Her friend was tackled, zip-tied, and left on the floor of Mullins for 10 hours with no water, and a guy pissed himself. Another girl wouldn't be let to go to the bathroom when she had a period. I mean, what kind of treatment is this of our students who are arrested? And so these are eyewitness accounts. These are not I, I mean, we can make a complaint definitely, but we don't know if it was UMass police or State police. How do you know when that kind of- I don't know who pulled this strobe lights out and chased the students. But *you* should know that. You were there.

UMPD Chief Parham: And just again for the taser and baton even being out, or we're not aware of that, either of those situations.

Secretary Paik: Point of order.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Yes, Secretary.

Secretary Paik: Again. I apologize. You know, these are rules, and I know it's a very emotional moment. But we wanna have questions and we wanna have answers, and we wanna have a chance to exchange. And yelling from the sidelines is not helpful, in my opinion. Could you like a ruling, please?

Senator Roeper: I have 2 questions, too. The first one relates to what many people have been saying, second's a little bit broader. First is, would you consider a policy at the university that police and no one else and anyone else, is simply not allowed on campus with a lot of weapons which are threatening right away- with riot gear. Can't we stipulate as a university how we are going to be policed and address questions like that? They are intimidating just when they appear, as people have said. My second question is from me, but I think from everybody. Why were the students making these demonstrations? We know why. It's the situation in Gaza. Do we, as a university, have some responsibility there? We represent not really the United States and not really Massachusetts. We represent the world. That's why we're called the university. We have members- faculty members- here who speak about 80 or 90 languages. We are well prepared to engage in this. Our country, with our bombs, have destroyed 7 universities in Gaza. I think UMass can respond to that ourselves. Let's invite refugee scholars, 500 Gazan students to come to UMass, and a different department, set an example across the country. If there were 15,000 students from Gaza coming to the United States. That would be an incredible representation. I appeal to you. Let's take a stand on that as a university.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Chancellor?

Chancellor Reyes: With your first question. I'm glad that you mentioned that as a faculty we can do something. We formed a group to the CDD that you guys could work on that and submit proposals. Many faculty did. I invite you to submit the proposal that the proposals will be open again this fall. Yes, we can respond. I've been saying it so many times. Let's use the platforms that we are the best at which is education, information, dissemination of that information, dialogue, and changing the awareness of the world on topics that matter, in which here all of you are experts on. We provided that platform 6 months ago. Use it.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chancellor. Next question.

Senator Bowlick: How much- and with respect to everyone's questions, I'm going for a simple one, thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. How much did the police response cost the university?

UMPD Chief Parham: I think we're one week out. We've not done any calculation, so I do not know that.

Senator Bowlick: Will it be the continuing policy to make major policy decisions that affect the well-being of the university without pricing them out?

UMPD Chief Parham: Yeah, yeah, we'll have those prices. We don't have it right now.

Senator Bowlick: I look forward to continuing budget discussions with you, Chief. Thank you.

UMPD Chief Parham: The only I was going to mention as well to Dr. Roeper's last comment about riot gear, I just wanted to confirm, or just- I've been seeing reading a lot about riot gear, and just certainly our officers, as well as the State police, had their regular uniform, or their which, known as a BDU, which is a softer, softer uniform. But then they did wear protective helmets, and that was intentional as we had heard earlier, about someone being hitting the head at around 6:40 PM. At one point as well during the demonstration and doing the trespassing we had officers that found at least one pile of rocks. So there's definitely concern about potentially being hit in the head. So officers did, indeed, don helmets, but I know the term riot gear has been been raised several times.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chief. Next question.

Senator Dori-Hacohen: I have solicited some responses from my district to be a mouthpiece to them. So first I want to ask a few comments that I got from my district, and then I will ask a couple of questions of mine. So to frame it, Chancellor wrote, "ensuring the safety and well-being of our students and other members of our campus community is one of the most important duties" to that there is the faculty suggested that all of the faculty I know at you must focus an overwhelming amount of energy on ensuring that our students feel respected and safe at the University. We are not perfect at this, but we are trying, and it's something we strive for as an institution, more so than any other place I've worked or studied. After the police action we all feel less safe, less respected. Jewish students, unnerved by their encampment, looking for assurance of their own safety and value instead, got references to the University's Land Use Policy. Protesters looking to raise legitimate questions about the conduct of the war and the University's investment in the Weapons Industry, who had conducted themselves in a peaceful fashion, were dispersed by an overwhelming number of police in gear riots. Students, faculty, and staff entirely uninvolved in the protests are shaken by what they've witnessed. We're all gutted by this war, and collectively hold a broad range of opinions on the conflict. But I have not spoken to anyone who feels safer on campus after what happened on May seventh, and I fear the institution has sent a message to prospective students everywhere that undercuts our campus mission to be an open, inclusive, and safe community. So I wonder if someone wants to respond to that statement from our district.

Chancellor Reyes: I don't know if there's a question there other than we do have to work on how we're going to keep our campus safe and increase- have a better climate. And I cannot continue to repear myself. Anyway, I will repeat myself, saying. We want to have a group of faculty students and staff to look at this, to work on this, to really understand what happened and how we move forward. That's a commitment we have. Whether people want to participate or not. That's something that we will also mention. Just like the CDD that provided a platform to work on this way before this happened. Not everybody took on that. Let's work on that. And we will.

Senator Dori-Hacohen: Second comment. I find the antisemitic rhetoric of many of the protestors to be horrifying. Many Jewish students are unable to take full advantage of being at

the university now. What does the Administration propose to do to make this campus welcoming to all?

Chancellor Reyes: Work with all our students, faculty, and staff again, and present all perspectives. The encampment had a response or an impact on some students and a different impact on other students and a different impact on members in the community. We have to have all those perspectives present when we are making those decisions on how we're going to move forward.

Senator Dori-Hacohen: And now, to a couple of my question, I was at the event, and I saw someone who I believed to be a police member recording the crowd- taking videos of the crowd. Was that the case? And if so, why was it done? And from my perspective this is intimidating bypassers from not doing civic engagement. So I would like to know the answer for that.

UMPD Chief Parham: Yes, there were definitely- including the State police- they have body worn cameras, so most of the troopers that were here were wearing body worn cameras, and then you would have likely seen some UMPD officers that were also visibly, not hiding, displaying a video camera. So yes, that is true. And that was to document our officers' actions.

Senator Dori-Hacohen: The person was standing 10 feet from the members.

Presiding Officer Brewer: You're-

Senator Dori-Hacohen: I'm asking a follow-up question. I have the floor.

Presiding Officer Brewer: You have exceeded your time limit. We have a 3 minute time limit at this time.

Senator Dori-Hacohen: That was for my district.

Presiding Officer Brewer: I'm sorry we have a 3 min time limit. There are other people that have questions.

Secretary Paik: Presiding Officer.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Yes, Secretary.

Secretary Paik: Can you clarify that the Senator can ask another question if he just goes to the back of line.

Presiding Officer Brewer: You may ask another question if you go to the back line, if time is available. However, we are very closely up on the half hour period that we'd allocated for the questions.

Senator Dori-Hacohen: Yes, thank you, Secretary.

Senator Goldner: Thank you. I have a three-part question. Some of these I don't think these have been asked, but there's been a lot going by very fast, and I'm sure I didn't hear answers. So first of all, why did the arrests continue after the tents were removed? My understanding is that there were way fewer people than 132 occupying tents. Maybe my understanding is wrong there. What was accomplished in doing this? And 3, if the answer is nothing, as would seem to be implied by your insistence that we need to do something different going forward, nothing or worse, why won't you apologize?

UMPD Chief Parham: And I can answer the first part of the question. That is, those charges for additional people after the encampment for a failure to disperse and trespass.

Chancellor Reyes: As I said before, we had a I described the environment that we had and what it could have led, and I just thought that it was the best for the campus to do what we did.

Senator Bauner: So we've- it's pretty clear that the encampment violated the Land Use Policies, and we've heard some relatively vague references to alterations, and I would just like to ask you to clarify whether there was concrete evidence that the encampment provided a security danger, and what that evidence was. Thank you.

Chancellor Reyes: I'm happy to reread the environment that I described is what led to the context of that decision. With the altercations that were reported, there was an altercation reported for a counter protester.

Senator Ciecko: I wanted to reiterate a point made by a previous questioner about the fact that the arrests continued after the encampment structures were forcibly removed, dismantled. So I would like some further clarification given that that was the grounds for arrest, and I'd also like to find out more about why all present were repeatedly threatened with arrest, observers, witnesses, and all, in an ever expanding vicinity of our campus, and I would also like to just add a comment that there needs to be a rethinking of causality. The big, large group did not assemble because of the protesters they assembled because of the increasing presence of the armed police on our campus.

Chancellor Reyes: Chief, if you want to talk about the first one.

UMPD Chief Parham: So I would again repeat at that point failure to disperse and trespassing for those who remained, and would not leave. So those were the 2 charges and the reasons for those additional arrests.

Chancellor Reyes: Chief, one of the things that we kept hearing, and I don't know if you have any comments on that that after the police was leaving, those 2 arrests happen.

UMPD Chief Parham: Yes, the additional thing that was happening, and I don't have the exact timeline in front of me. But once the encampment was down again, everyone in that vicinity was given, multiple times, at least 6 dispersal orders over a loudspeaker and there were some who were refusing to leave. Refusing, you know, basically inches away from officers. Basically, it was still very intense, and they would refuse to leave after numerous attempts, including to the

point where the encampment was actually shut down. And the troopers were trying to get to their- literally get to their police cars and get out of Amherst, and there were hecklers and demonstrators and folks in their faces that would refuse to leave. Again, these were folks who were in the dispersal order who were continuing to basically to go at the officers as they're trying to leave. We had to end up, forming kind of lines to get the troopers and additional officers out of, you know, out of campus. So it was still pretty tense from our opinion.

These folks did not seem to be fearful of the police or armed police, as troopers were trying to get to their cars as safely as possible, and people were following them. Even some of our officers had demonstrators who were following us to our cars so, and these were all folks who had been already warned multiple times for failure to disperse and for trespass.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chief. Next question.

Senator Messier: Thank you. Presiding Officer Brewer. Thank you, Secretary. I'm a Business and Entrepreneurship Services librarian and a senator, and I'm also a member of the Rules Committee. I've been struggling a lot through all of this. I'm sorry. Please excuse my naivety, but how are we supposed to keep hope with all of this happening, especially when it's happening in our capsule of UMass, while we see it on a grander scale outside of campus and we're asked to "Be Revolutionary"? We're told you were, you are, you UMass. I'm not sure that I want to be UMass if it's going to be colored by events that make people feel unsafe, whether those events are encampments or arrests. None of the sides, I'm not picking aside here. And clearly you're our Chancellor, unless otherwise not. So how do I? How do I? You know I'm sorry I'm shaking. What is your advice for someone who's struggling with wrestling with that. Like myself or anyone else who feels the same in this room.

Chancellor Reyes: The conversations, the dialogues that we need to have, even today before we started this, I was approached and asked, "Would you meet with me?" like, of course I will meet with you. "Can I record you?" Again, we're going to have to have a lot of conversations together, and we're going to have to have difficult conversations together. We have to look at what happened, what goes forward and everybody's saying, well, we need to record this. We need to have- Okay, then, if that's how we're going to have the conversation. Let's have it. But we need to have the conversation. I mentioned in the Faculty Senate the other day that it was the first time that I was being able to receive questions from some of the students in a way that I could respond. Let's have those settings. Let's set that- setting those tables where we can have those conversations. It all starts that way. We know it. We all know it. It starts that way. Do we have to rebuild a lot of confidence. Yes. We have to. And we cannot be- you're not being naive. You're being realistic. That's where we are. But I believe in us. I believe in UMass. I believe in all of you, and I even applauded our students when they went to a faculty and have that conversation. I even applauded and recognized the students that their advocacy was having an impact. Even when we were at the mediation table or when we were before the during the demonstration. I said, "Your advocacy is raising awareness. It has risen awareness. Keep doing it and let us continue to protect your freedom of speech by staying within the guidelines that we have provided. We can do this." We all just have to be at the table, and I go back to end of my remarks, we all have to be represented at the table. There's a group of students, there's a group of faculty, your colleagues, who are saying that they can't speak. They don't want to give their

opinion on things. That is the worst situation we can be as a university. We have to be able to have those conversations, and we have to be able to rebuild. Some of you have said that the relationship between the Rules Committee and the Administration had not been stronger before GSS has said the conversation with administration has been stronger. And yet, we had a good relationship, and I believe we still do. Again, I just think that if we definitely continue to talk to each other, we'll get there and we will be back to where we were. And I know that people know it.

Presiding Officer Brewer: Thank you, Chancellor, and with that we are over time. And so I'm going to call the end of the special meeting. And we are adjourned. Thank you very much, everyone, for the questions and answers and responses.